

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 CU-05 DRC-01 /140 W

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R 031500Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 0492

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: WAITING FOR OTHER SHOE TO DROP

REF: A) CAPE TOWN 419; B) CAPE TOWN -70

BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE CONTINUED SPECULATION AND SEEMING INDICATIONS FROM VORSTER HIMSELF, PM HAS NOT RPT NOT YET DECLARED NUSAS AND OTHER GROUPS "AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS." EXPECTATION THAT PM WOULD ANNOUNCE DECISION IN SEPT 2 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE PROVED FALSE AS VORSTER CONCENTRATED REMARKS ON RESPONDING TO OPPOSITION ATTACKS CONCERNING STATUS OF COLORED COMMUNITY. PM HIGHLIGHTED STILL UNDEFINED "STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODY" AS BEST OFFER SAG WILLING TO MAKE COLOREDS. END SUMMARY.

1. SPECULATION THAT PM VORSTER WOULD USE OPPORTUNITY OF DEBATE ON PRIME MINISTER'S VOTE (PART OF ONGOING PARLIAMENTARY BUDGET DEBATE) TO ANNOUNCE GOVERNMENT DECISION DECLARING NATIONAL UNION OF SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS (NUSAS) AND CONCEIVABLY OTHER GROUPS AS "AFFECTED ORGANIZATIONS" PROVED
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WRONG AS PM AND OPPOSITION REPLAYED EARLY AUGUST NO CONFI-

DENCE DEBATE CENTERING ON FUTURE OF COLORED COMMUNITY. PM HIMSELF HAD DONE MUCH TO FOSTER SPECULATION THAT NUSAS ANNOUNCEMENT IMMINENT WHEN IN AUGUST 30 SESSION, HE TOLD HOUSE THAT HE WOULD SOON MAKE KNOWN HOW SAG WILL DEAL WITH "AGITATORS."

2. HOWEVER, WHEN DEBATE RESUMED MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, VORSTER DID NOT FURTHER REFER TO ISSUE BUT RATHER CONTINUED SPEAKING

ON FUTURE OF COLORED COMMUNITY. THROUGHOUT DEBATE OPPOSITION LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF REPEATED BASIC THRUST OF HIS NO CONFIDENCE ARGUMENT (REFTEL A) THAT CHANGING POLITICAL SCENE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA NECESSITATED A UNITED SOUTH AFRICAN NATION WHICH WOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND NATIONAL SECURITY. EFFECTIVE INCLUSION OF COLOREDS INTO NATIONS'S POLITICAL LIFE, AND ELIMINATION OF THEIR CURRENT BITTERNESS, ARGUED GRAAFF, THEREFORE IMPERATIVE.

3. VORSTER'S RESPONSE WAS GENERALLY MEASURED, EXCEPT DURING SOME HEATED BACK AND FORTH WITH OPPOSITION HECKLERS. HE SAID COLORED LEADERS MUST CONCENTRATE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DOORS NOW OPENING TO THE COMMUNITY, AND THAT IN POLITICAL SPHERE GREATER OPPORTUNITY FOR ACTIVITY POSSIBLE, SHORT OF SHARING POWER IN PARLIAMENT. COLOREDS AND ASIANS WOULD BE GIVEN GREATER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES ON MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THEIR COMMUNITIES VIA REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNMENT BODIES SUCH AS CONSUMERS COUNCIL AND ADVISORY PUBLICATION BOARDS, ETC. VORSTER ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT COLORED REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) COULD BE MADE TO WORK, BUT ALSO HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF CREATION OF A "STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODY", PERHAPS AN EXTENSION OF CRC, TO AFFORD COMMUNITY GREATER SAY IN MATTERS AFFECTING IT.

4. PM DUCKED MOST POINTED OPPOSITION QUESTIONS ABOUT POLITICAL ROLE FOR COLOREDS AND REFUSED TO FURTHER DEFINE WHAT HE MEANT BY "STATUTORY CONSULTATIVE BODY." HE STATED THAT SPECIFICS WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS WITH CRC LEADERS (PM DUE TO MEET WITH THEM SEPTEMBER 5). AND ISSUANCE OF THERON COMMISSION REPORT NOW DUE IN LATE 1975.

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5. COMMENT: VORSTER'S PERFORMANCE APPARENTLY CONGRUENT WITH IMPRESSION OF MANY PARLIAMENTARY OBSERVERS (REF B) THAT HIS POLICIES IN REGARD TO COLORED PROBLEM IS TO ATTEMPT TO TALK SITUATION TO DEATH WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONCESSIONS. PM SPEECH WAS NOT A "NEVER, NEVER" HARD-LINE APPROACH NOR WAS IT AN OPEN-ARMED WELCOME TO COLORED COMMUNITY. IT WAS, RATHER, WAY FOR HIM TO CONTINUE TO BUY TIME AND AS SUCH SERVE

GENERAL NATIONALIST POLICY TO GIVE ILLUSION OF MOVE-
MENT AND OPEN-MINDNESS ON ISSUE IN WHICH GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY
HAS NO INTENTION OF TAKING MAJOR INITIATIVES. IMPORTANT
QUESTION OF JUST HOW AND WHEN GOVERNMENT GOING TO DEAL WITH
"AGITATORS" REMAINS JUST THAT, A QUESTION. FEW DOUBT THAT
OTHER SHOE WILL EVENTUALLY DROP. HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME
SPECULATION IN PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS THAT VORSTER MAY
CHOOSE TO LEAVE JOB TO ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WHICH
NOW STUDYING SCHLEBUSCH NUSAS REPORT FOR POSSIBLE CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS.
HURD

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